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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvia)

DATE DISTR. 2 JUN 53

SUBJECT Medical Laboratory Facilities/Water Pollution/
Residential Faculty Members at University
of Riga

NO. OF PAGES 2

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TION OF ITS CONTENTS TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Very little pure bacteriological research
was conducted in Latvia up to 1944 and in general, research was all applied.

2. The Latvian State Bacteriological Laboratory was located either on Church Street or School Street, Riga, in vicinity of St Gertrude's Church. It was a division of the Department of Health and was established about 30 years ago. The building was a former two story private residence. All of the work conducted by the laboratory was the identification of diphtheria and typhoid cases and the testing of water supplies. The professional staff consisted of about 10 people, all of whom were medical doctors. No unusual equipment was installed.
3. The State Serum Station was located on the bank of Daugava River just northwest of Riga at Bolderaja. Tetanus serum was manufactured as well as veterinary medicaments. About 80 horses were kept at the station for serum purposes. Key personnel were shared with the state bacteriological laboratory, but about 20 permanent staff members were employed. Production of serum and veterinary supplies was adequate for Latvian requirements.
4. The two municipal hospitals in Riga each had a clinical laboratory for general hospital needs. No advanced research was conducted. The University of Riga Medical Faculty utilized these laboratories. Riga Red Cross Hospital also had a clinical laboratory. The Army Hospital had a laboratory for clinical use. [redacted] do not believe that BW research was conducted there due to lack of sufficiently trained military personnel. No civilians [redacted] were engaged in such activity in Latvia as of 1944.
5. The municipal hospital and Red Cross hospital at Liepaja, each had a clinical laboratory. there were no separate laboratories located in the city. The municipal hospital at Daugavpils had no laboratory.

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6. The purity of drinking water in Latvia is poor, both in urban and suburban areas due to shallow water table. Water supply for Riga is, however, relatively pure and is ground water pumped from an area near Lielais Baltezers, a lake just north of the city. No purification is necessary. Water supply of Daugavpils is taken from Daugava River and must be chlorinated. It is a poor source and typhoid outbreaks reoccur. At Jelgava ground water is mixed with river water to soften it. It is chlorinated. In suburban areas well water is utilized. Wells are usually shallow and uncovered resulting in easy contamination. During Latvian Republic there was no systematic government inspection of wells.

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